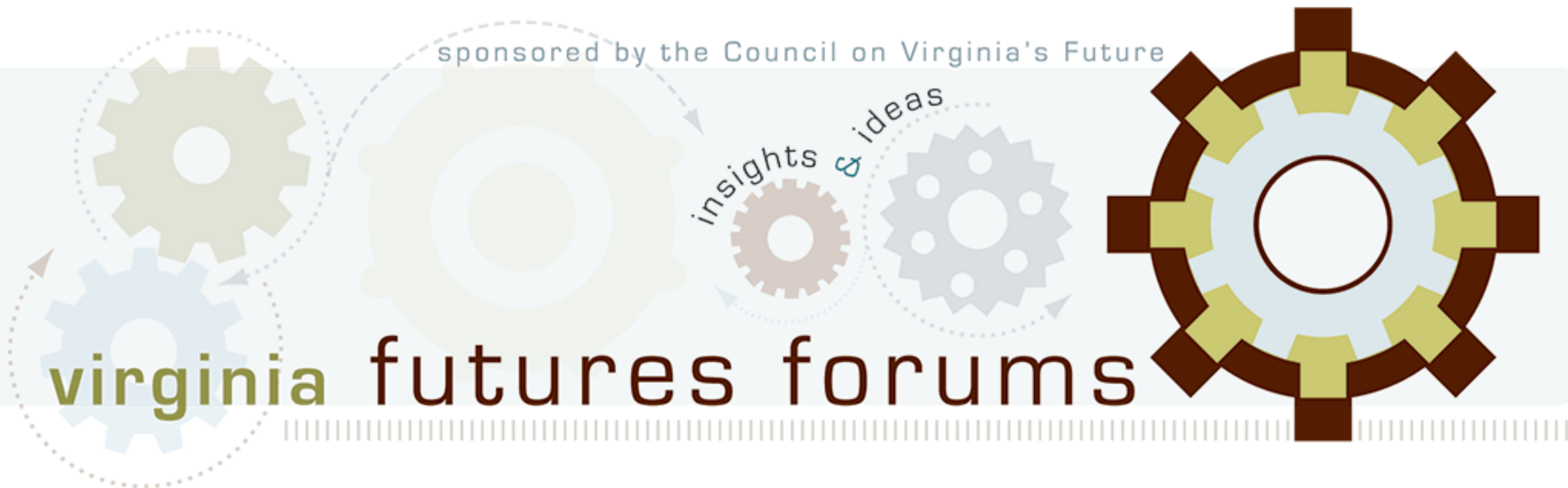


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Economic Competitiveness: Enhancing the Alignment of Higher Education with Long-term Workforce Needs



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Introduction

The Council was created to ensure Virginia's long-term prosperity and quality of life by creating an environment for improved policy-making and increased government accountability, performance, and results.

- Initiatives include Virginia Performs, the Productivity Investment Fund, and Performance-based Planning and Budgeting. These initiatives and others are improving performance and productivity in Virginia today.
- But, as part of its focus on long-term goals and outcomes, the Council has determined that it is imperative for Virginia to elevate educational attainment to ensure global economic competitiveness and prosperity.





Introduction

- Work to date has included documentation of the current state and definition of key issues, including:
 - ▶ A summary of the education pipeline (a summary is in the packets).
 - ▶ A special edition of *The Virginia Report* focusing on education in Virginia.
 - ▶ Development of a model by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems to analyze strategies to meet economic competitiveness needs. This analysis indicates that the Commonwealth's public institutions will need to produce more than 70,000 additional degrees by 2020 for the state to attain parity with international economic competitors.
- Key priorities for the next three to six months:
 - ▶ Development of a set of improvement scenarios around key leverage points in the education pipeline.
 - ▶ Convening forums that will bring together small groups of internal and external thought leaders to help clarify critical strategic issues and opportunities for improving higher education attainment.



Potential Futures Forums

Forum Topics / Issues

Educational Attainment

Economic Competitiveness: Aligning Higher Education and Workforce Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify the linkages between higher education and long-term economic competitiveness.• Identify specific issues related to the production of STEM and related high-need degrees.• Evaluate the alignment of degree programs with student needs and economic competitiveness.• Consider options for the state’s role in improving the alignment of degree production with long-term workforce needs.
College Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the current state of student college readiness.• Identify methods and best practices in Virginia and elsewhere for addressing/correcting student remediation needs.• Determine and assess the role of higher education in helping students prepare for college.
Retention and Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate efforts to optimize higher education’s ability to meet student aspirations in relation to their skills and abilities.• Assess institution-specific progress and best practices for improving retention and graduation.• Identify “leverage points” at which increased focus or investment might yield greater student success.
Finances and Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify successful initiatives and approaches to contain costs while not compromising quality.• Evaluate opportunities for stronger multi-institution collaboration and leveraging of institution-specific strengths and areas of excellence.• Evaluate the potential role of institution- and/or student-based incentives in promoting statewide goals, cost containment, and educational excellence.• Assess the impact and benefits of the Restructuring Act.
Affordability and Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify the main drivers of higher education affordability and the relationship between affordability and access.• Develop statewide goals and consistent policies for enhancing higher education affordability, including assessing the appropriate balance between need- and merit-based approaches.• Assess the effectiveness of existing financial aid programs in enhancing affordability and access.
Timely and Efficient Student Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine the barriers that colleges face in accepting credits from other institutions or for high school AP and other advanced coursework that might reduce the total time to completion.• Evaluate the potential for developing and promoting incentives or innovative programs, including technology-based approaches, that could help students complete their degrees in a more timely and cost-efficient manner.

Best Managed State

Maintaining Best Managed State Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the current state in relationship to the PEW Center on the States’ criteria for people, money, information, and infrastructure.• Identify strategies for enhancing progress on high-priority outcomes.• Identify opportunities for accelerating productivity improvement.
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Forum Agenda

- ▶ Are Virginia's workforce needs sufficiently integrated into higher education planning and development?
- ▶ What organizations - state and regional - are best positioned to foster stronger alignment between workforce needs and higher education?

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

*Jane N. Kusiak, Executive Director
Council on Virginia's Future*

II. Presentation and Discussion

- Enhancing the Alignment of Higher Education with Long-term Workforce Needs

*Chris Chmura, President and
Chief Economist
Chmura Economics and Analytics*

- Virginia Education Wizard

*M. Craig Herndon, Director of Career and
Educational Resources
Virginia Community College System*

III. Closing Remarks

Jane N. Kusiak

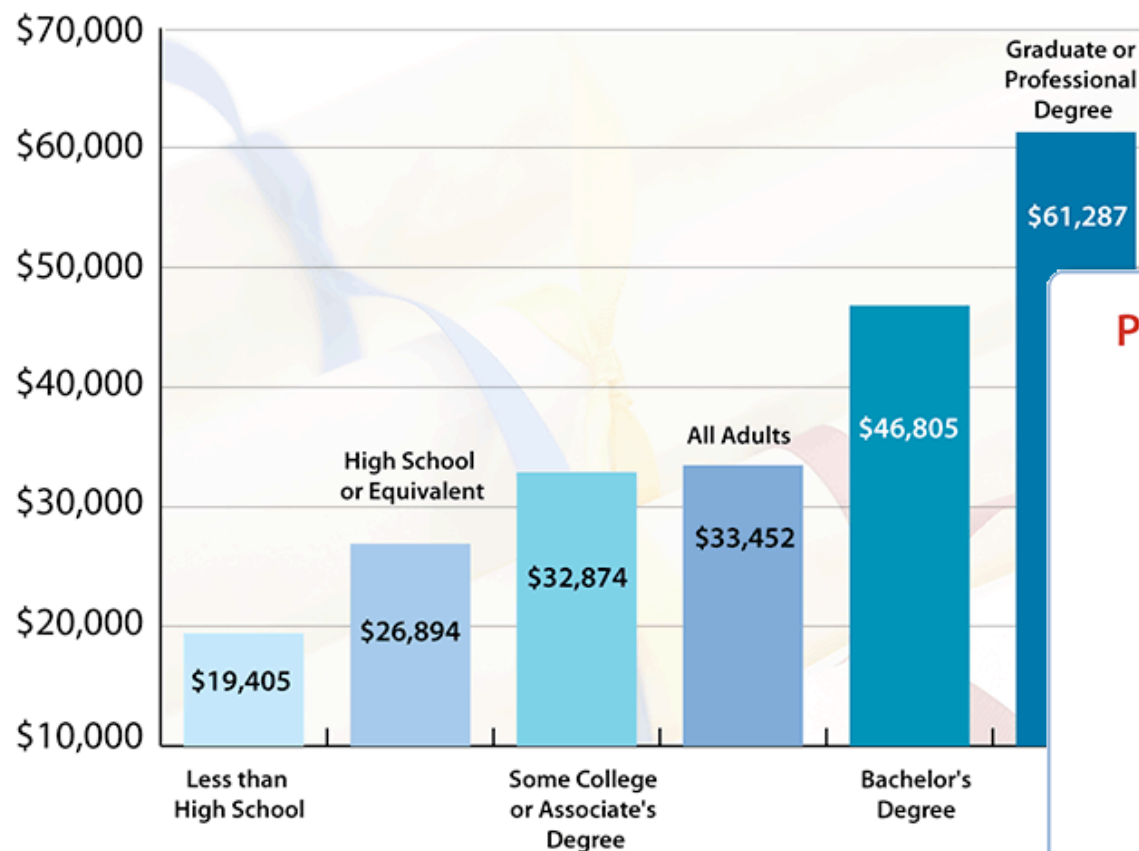




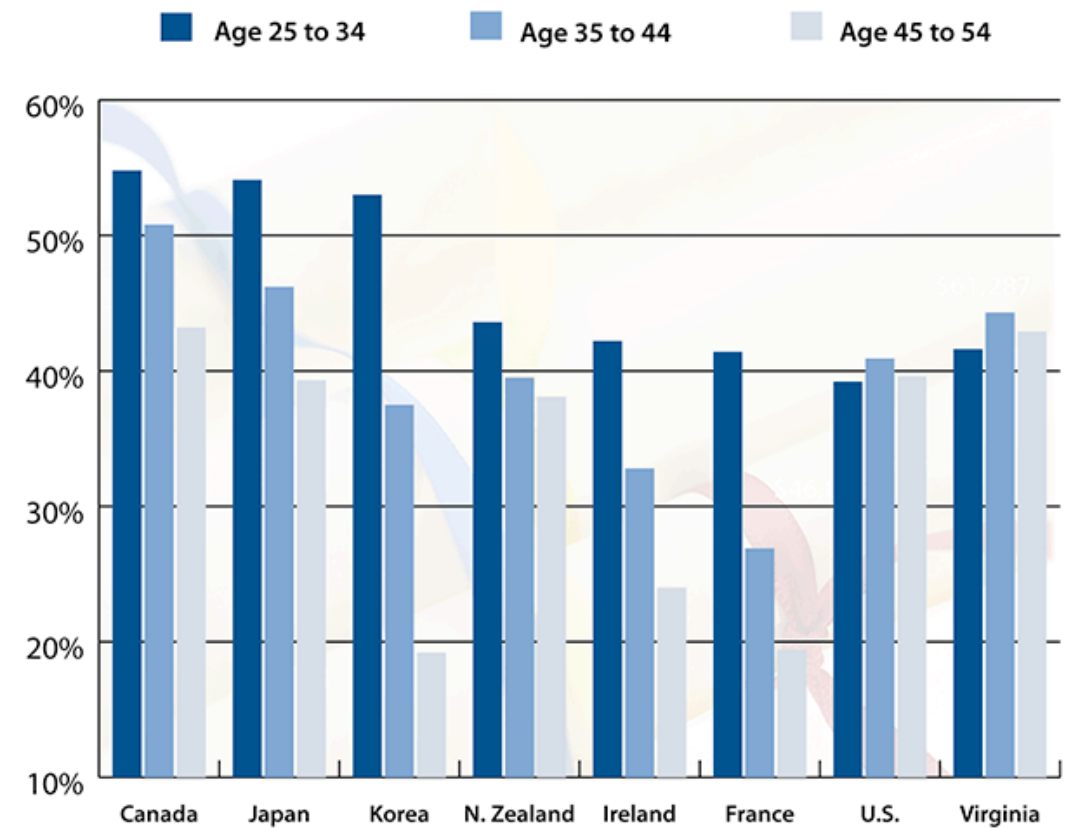
Background Information

Why is Education So Important?

**Median Earnings by Level of Educational Attainment, 2007
(U.S. Adults 25 & Older)**



Percent of Population with an Associate's Degree or Higher



Challenges for Virginia

Educational Attrition Rates in Virginia (2008)

100 

Out of 100 High School Freshmen . . .

82 

. . . will graduate from high school on time

58 

. . . will directly enroll in post-secondary education

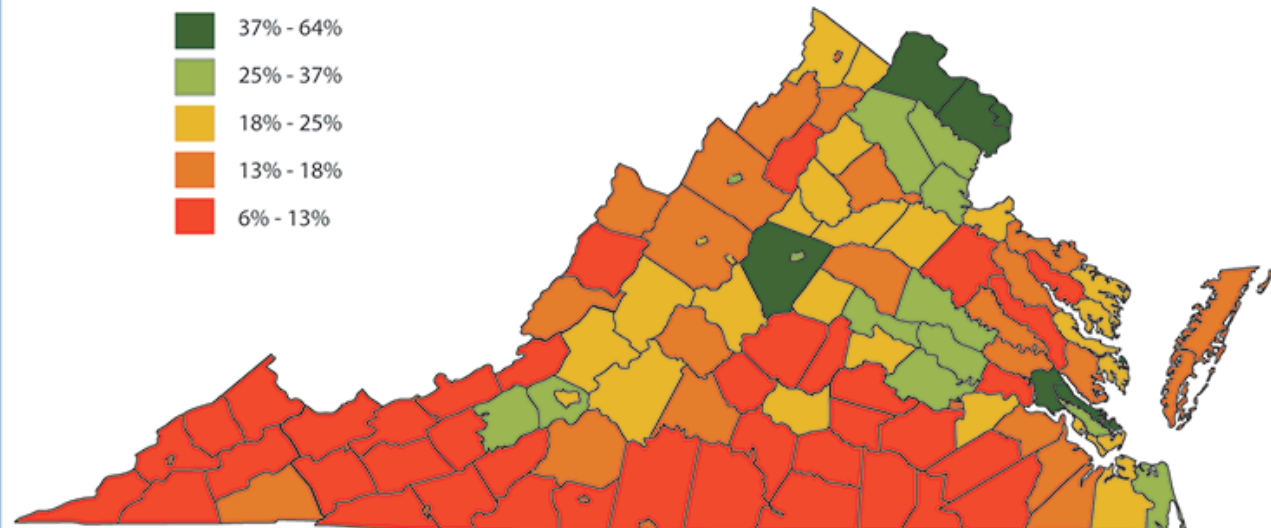
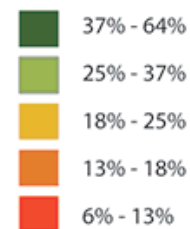
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. . . will get a 2- or 4-year degree within 150% of normal completion time

Higher Education Attainment in Virginia

Percent of Persons 25 or Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher
(2000 U.S. Census)

Percent w/ Bachelor's Degree or Higher





Forum Participants

Frank B. Atkinson

Chairman, McGuireWoods Consulting LLP

Peter A. Blake

Vice Chancellor, Workforce Development Services,
Virginia Community College System

The Honorable Richard D. Brown

Secretary of Finance

Achsah H. Carrier

Research Associate, Demographics and Workforce,
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Christine Chmura

President and Chief Economist, Chmura Economics &
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Whittington W. Clement

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Thomas D. Daley

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Executive Director, Council on Virginia's Future

Robert P. Leber

Director, Education and Workforce Development, Northrop
Grumman Corp.; Chair, Virginia Workforce Council





Forum Participants (continued)

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Senior Advisor to the Governor for Workforce

Donald P. Lillywhite

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Employment Commission

Anthony A. Maggio

Legislative Fiscal Analyst, House Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Thomas R. Morris

Secretary of Education

Liz Povar

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Staff Director, House Appropriations Committee

Sonya R. Waddell

Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of
Richmond

John O. "Dubby" Wynne

Vice Chair, Council on Virginia's Future





Sites of Interest

Virginia Performs:
VaPerforms.virginia.gov

Productivity Investment Fund:
www.pif.virginia.gov

Hampton Roads Performs:
HamptonRoadsPerforms.org

Council on Virginia's Future:
future.virginia.gov



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